

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Craig
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	New Castle Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: See Continuation sheet			
CITY OR TOWN: New Castle		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth; William C. Wampler	
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Craig	CODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY		
OWNER'S NAME: Varied ownership		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: New Castle	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Craig County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: New Castle	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11	

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Fair</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">(Check One)</div> <div style="text-align: center;">(Check One)</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Moved</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site</span> </div>
<div style="font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</div> <p>New Castle lies in the Craig Creek Valley at the confluence of Craig and John's Creeks secluded in the mountains of western Virginia. Many of the buildings, both commercial and residential, date from the early twentieth century, and these serve as both a buffer and a foil to the central core, or historic district.</p> <p>The focal point of New Castle district is Craig County Courthouse, located in a shady yard at the corner of Court and Main streets. The courthouse is a temple-form structure with shallow gable roof, a two-story tetra-style Greek Doric portico and wooden hexagonal cupola. Low two-story wings frame the building's central portion. The red brick walls are laid in regular Flemish bond on the facade and the north wing, with five-course American bond on the less public sides. Queen closers are employed at the salient corners. Two Doric pilasters flank the main section, and a simple Doric entablature is employed on both wings and central block. The first and second level windows on the facade are united in a single composition by the use of a connecting panel and surrounding symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks. Other windows are double-hung and have eight-over-eight sash. The doorway, bearing some Asher Benjamin influences, consists of a Doric entablature, supported by two pilasters, each with an engaged half-round in the center, framing double doors. The doors have large rectangular glass panes, which probably are later additions. Above is a diamond panel instead of a transom. A smaller diamond panel forms part of the blocking course above the entablature.</p> <p>The courtroom is on the second floor of the building with the Judge's bench located over the front entrance. Rectangular panels ornament the bench and the windows have symmetrical trim. The room is entered from the northwest by a stairwell opening into the room. The turned balusters around the stairwell bear the reputed saber slashes of the Federal soldiers.</p> <p>Northwest of the courthouse is the sheriff's house and old jail. The nearly square three-bay building has brick walls laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at the corners of the northeast facade. Seven-course American is used on the remaining sides. The shallow hipped roof is surrounded by a wooden box cornice and a stuccoed frieze. The double-hung windows have six-over-six sash and are encircled by plain trim with corner blocks. Several pairs of the wooden louvered shutters remain on the building. Iron bars form a cross pattern in windows on the upper floor, which once housed the jail. The doorway consists of plain trim with corner blocks surrounding a rectangular transom and simple door. A later shed roof porch shelters the first floor. A small cinder block addition adjoins the original structure on the northwest, and a modern brick jail building stands just southeast of the house.</p> <p>The three-story Central Hotel is across Court Street, north of the courthouse. The building is ell-shaped, and measures forty feet across the southeast front and fifty feet across the ell to the northwest. The five-bay ell is a later addition as is the third story. The lower two stories of the front section are Flemish bond, the upper story is seven-course American bond. The walls of the ell are laid in irregular American bond. The windows are double-hung with varying sash of six-over-six and early-twentieth-century two-over-two sash. The windows and doors are surrounded by plain trim with corner blocks. The lower windows on the main section have molded sills; the remaining sills are square. The doorways have rectangular transoms; some of the doors are paneled, others have glass lights. A two-story shed porch runs</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian;      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Craig County Courthouse and adjacent buildings form an unusually complete ante-bellum county seat complex for western Virginia. Surviving in a picturesque grouping are an impressive Greek Revival courthouse, sheriff's house and hotel. Completing the scene are two late-nineteenth century structures, the Layman Insurance Agency and the First National Bank.

The courthouse, the sheriff's house and the hotel were all begun in 1851 when New Castle became the county seat of Craig County. The three-part courthouse, one of Virginia's distinguished group of Greek Revival court buildings, is modelled on the Botetourt County Courthouse in Fincastle, (burned, 1970) which was regarded as one of the finest in the area. The Craig County Courthouse is complimented by the contemporary hotel and the sheriff's house, all of which are faced in fine Flemish-bond brickwork.

As was often the case in western Virginia, the group of court related buildings attracted enterprise and became the nucleus of a commercial center for the county. The association of local government with a tavern, now the hotel, is typical of Virginia court towns, where citizens had to travel substantial distances to reach the county seat. The late-nineteenth century bank and insurance buildings indicate the growth of business activities in New Castle. The continuity of material and scale in the structures within the district link the several styles and achieve a satisfying visual harmony.

New Castle became the county seat of Craig County when it was formed in 1851 from Botetourt, Giles, Monroe, and Roanoke Counties. The new county was named for Robert Craig, Member of the Virginia General Assembly, 1850-52, from Roanoke County. New Castle, originally called New Fincastle, was established by Governor Dinwiddie in 1756 as a fort for protection against marauding Indians on the frontier during the French and Indian War. Confusion arose between its name and Fincastle in nearby Botetourt County, hence the name was simplified to New Castle.

During the War Between the States both General Averell and General Hunter stopped in New Castle during their raids on the Valley and western Virginia. New Castle did not suffer greatly in these raids, but tradition states that the courthouse suffered depredations in the form of soldiers' saber cuts in the courtroom balustrade.

New Castle continued to grow after the war, as evidenced by the number of buildings from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The town was incorporated in 1890 and is today the major community of an essentially rural county.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 30 ' 16 "	80 ° 06 ' 38 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 30 ' 16 "	80 ° 06 ' 31 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37 ° 30 ' 10 "	80 ° 06 ' 31 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37 ° 30 ' 10 "	80 ° 06 ' 38 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff		DATE August 1973
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia	CODE 51

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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the length of the ell and facade and is supported by brick piers. Supporting the porch roof are square wooden piers that have a molding at the level of the balustrade. The balustrade between each pair of piers consists of a set of horizontal rails flanked by two sets of vertical rails. The chimneys are interior-end and have brick stacks.

The First National Bank building dates from the late-nineteenth century and is located at the southwest corner of Court and Main Streets. The building has brick walls laid in five-course American bond with the header course alternating header and stretcher. Brick pilasters break the fenestration. The Main Street facade has a heavy Eastlake bracketed cornice, but the Court Street side has a stepped parapet. Original tall double-hung windows have two-over-two sash and are surmounted by segmental arches of a triple row of headers. The doorway has a similar segmental arch. The western lower bay on Main Street has been converted into a modern store front.

The Layman Insurance Agency on Main Street is a small three-bay brick structure built at the same period as the bank. Like the bank, the brick walls are laid in American bond with Flemish variation. Two courses of mousetooth brick accent the facade near the cornice. The hipped roof is surrounded by a box cornice with crown and bed moldings. Doors and windows are covered by segmental arches consisting of a double course of headers. Over the windows these arches are further covered by a corbelled course of headers simulating a hoodstone. A one-bay porch shelters the entrance and is supported by two wooden piers and two similar pilasters. A simple sawn balustrade encloses the sides.

GPH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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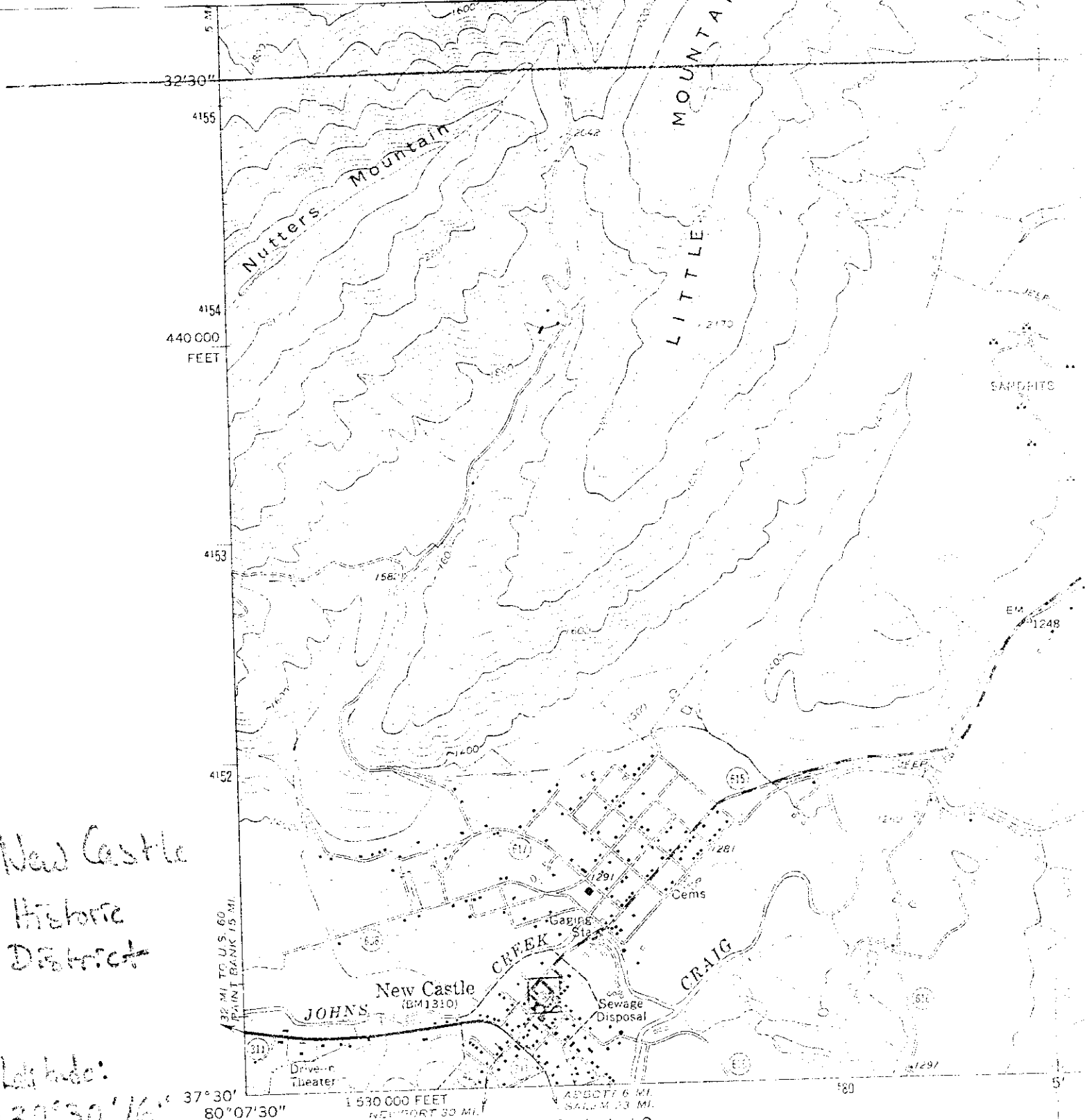
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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2.

The district consists of the following five structures on Court Street: courthouse, sheriff's house, hotel, the Layman Insurance Agency and the First National Bank.



New Castle  
Historic  
District

Latitude:

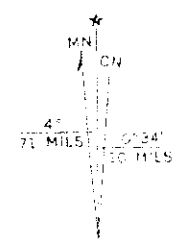
37°30'16"  
S 37°30'10"

Longitude:

W 80°06'38"  
E 80°06'31"

(LOONEY)  
1956 1 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1963. Field checked 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17,  
shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET